

**REMARKS**

The present request is submitted in response to the Final Office Action dated November 10, 2003, which set a three-month period for response, making this amendment due by February 10, 2004.

Claims 1 and 3-16 are pending in this application.

In the Final Office Action, claims 1, 3-6, 9, 10, 12, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,530,305 to Krueger et al. Claims 7, 8, and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Krueger et al in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,894,570 to Kaneyuki. Claims 11 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Krueger et al in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,103,127 to Peter. Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kruger et al in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,239,218 to Hashimoto et al.

In the present Request, claim 1 has been amended to more clearly define the present invention over the cited references. Specifically, amended claim 1 recites that in addition to the rotationally symmetrical base body 5, which constitutes the hub 4, the rotor body is comprised of one or more lamellas 1, 2, 3, each lamella 1, 2, 3 having a continuously uniform thickness in the direction of the rotational axis A of the rotor and at least one lamella 3 has rotationally asymmetrical screw-connecting pieces (17), said screw connecting pieces (17) being constituted by the lamella (3) and protruding radially inwardly of the lamella

(3). The above added features do not constitute new matter, as they are clearly shown in Figures 6 and 7 of the application as originally filed.

The Applicant respectfully submits that amended claim 1 defines a patentably distinct set of features neither shown nor suggested by the cited references.

The primary reference to Krueger shows screw connecting pieces that are three bolts 67 inserted into three corresponding boreholes in the rotor assembly 33, the latter being comprised by a stack of lamella. However, the lamella have a circular inner contour and, therefore, do not comprise any screw connecting pieces protruding radially inwardly thereof.

In contrast to Krueger, Figure 7 of the present application shows a lamella 3 having a rotationally asymmetric inner contour with six protrusions, each protrusion having one or two threaded boreholes (for example, 14 of Fig. 5), the boreholes accepting screws for screw-connecting a clutch thrust plate 12 (Fig. 5) or the intermediate flange of the clutch (specification, page 9, lines 9-11), or accepting connecting pins 8 for combining the lamellas into a bundle (specification, page 8, lines 15-16). The protrusions are integral with the lamella 3 and protrude radially inward thereof. The protrusions replace the screw-connection pieces 17 provided in Krueger according to Figs. 1 to 3 of the present application, offering a significant advantage, because the screw-connection pieces must be produced at a high cost in terms of materials and machining.

Because Krueger fails to disclose or suggest the above features of the present invention, as defined in amended claim 1, this reference cannot be seen

as anticipatory of the present invention under Section 102. A prior art reference anticipates a claim only if the reference discloses every limitation of the claims. Absence from the reference of any claimed element negates anticipation. *Row v. Dror*, 42 USPQ 2d 1550, 1553 (Fed. Cir. 1997) (quoting *Kloster Speedsteel AB v. Crucible, Inc.*, 230 USPQ 81, 84 (Fed. Cir. 1986)).

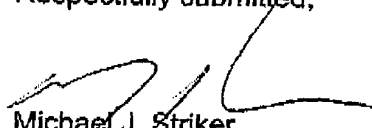
Furthermore, the primary reference to Krueger, when combined with the remaining references, as proposed, does not make obvious the present invention, when none of the cited references discloses or suggests the features of amended claim 1. The mere fact that the prior art may be modified in the manner suggested by the Examiner does not make the modification obvious unless the prior art suggested the desirability of the modification. *In re Fritch*, 23 USPQ 2d 1780, 1783-84 (Fed. Cir. 1992).

For the reasons set forth above, the Applicant respectfully submits that the subject matter of claims 1 and 3-16 are patentable over the cited references. The Applicant further requests withdrawal of the final rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102 and 103 and reconsideration of the claims as herein amended.

In light of the foregoing arguments in support of patentability, the Applicant respectfully submits that this application stands in condition for allowance. Action to this end is courteously solicited.

Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, the undersigned would very much welcome a telephone call in order to discuss appropriate claim language that will place the application into condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. Striker  
Attorney for Applicant  
Reg. No.: 27233  
103 East Neck Road  
Huntington, New York 11743  
631-549-4700